

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 26, 2012

Minutes of the Economic Development Commission held at 8:15 A.M., on Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Members Present: Todd DePino, Walter Mann, Radha Prasad, Richard LoPresti, William Gambardella, First Selectman Freda, Deborah Moore, Walter Spader

Members Absent: Frank Maher

### MINUTES

Chairman LoPresti opened the meeting with a discussion of the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 17, 2011. Mr. Gambardella moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Prasad.

VOTE:	Mann - Yes	DePino - Yes	LoPresti -Yes
	Freda - Yes	Prasad – Yes	Gambardella – Yes
	Moore – Abstain	Spader – Abstain	

Mr. LoPresti then welcomed new member Walter Spader to the commission. He also thanked Mr. Darley for his service to the commission and wished him the best in his new position.

Mr. LoPresti said that 2011 was a good year and he would like to continue the momentum into the coming year.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST

Mr. LoPresti began the discussion stating that the breakfast will be held in April. Unfortunately, we will not be able to use Quinnipiac University's facilities since renovations have begun and there is no longer an auditorium. Quinnipiac has agreed to provide the coffee/refreshments for the event.

Mr. LoPresti contacted Holiday Inn already but asked if commission members had any other suggestions. It was suggested that 297 State Street (Mt. Development) be used for the event. Mr. LoPresti said that he would set up a meeting with Mr. Coci to see if they would be interested in hosting the breakfast.

### COMMISSION UPDATE

Mr. Walter Mann said that he has been working with Ms. Goodkin and that she had made significant progress on the economic development website. Ms. Goodkin will publish the website today. Mr. Mann asked commission members to view the site and provide him with any suggestions, recommendations, and content. He also said that photos are needed. Mr. LoPresti said he would contact Mr. Maher and ask him to take photos. Mr. Spader will work on the content.

Mr. LoPresti mentioned that the UI has a program whereby once the website is up, a contractor will critique it at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Prasad said that he met with the Economic Coordinator of Guilford to discuss their economic development website. Mr. Prasad said that it was a very informative meeting and he felt very positive about what we are doing with our website and that we are not far behind other Towns.

Mr. Gambardella said he would like to work on the area of Broadway, Peck Street, and Washington Avenue. Mr. LoPresti said that he would contact Mr. Gambardella to discuss further.

Ms. Moore said she would check on the status of the linear trail.

Mr. LoPresti said he would contact Mr. DePino to discuss what he would like to work on.

#### FREDA UPDATE

Mr. Freda gave an update on the various economic development projects he is working on. He said that Leon's will be opening in April in the former Hollywood Video plaza. There is also a new breakfast/lunch restaurant opening on Broadway called Café on Broadway which is next to Ludal's. Hibachi Grill has a planned opening of May and is located in the Stop & Shop plaza. The medical buildings on Devine Street have broken ground and should be operational by early fall. Mr. Freda said that there are various projects in the works and once they have been confirmed, he will report on them.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 23, 2012 at **8:30 a.m.**

There being no further business before the Commission, Mr. DePino moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM, seconded by Mr. Spader.